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TO: Vaccines for Children (VFC) Providers
FROM: Lori Hutchinson, Vaccine Coordinator
Montana Immunization Program
DATE: January 27, 2012
SUBJECT: Influenza Update, Td Vaccine, Varicella Vaccine Transport, Data Loggers, imMTrax Transition

Seasonal Influenza Update

As we wind down the 2011–2012 season, we only have 0.25ml Fluzone® available. Contact me directly if you need more influenza vaccine (444-0277 lhutchinson@mt.gov).

If you have extra vaccine that you will not use by the end of the season, contact the Immunization Program. We will distribute a weekly all-provider email of available vaccine with contact information for arranging a transfer. We ask that you limit transfers to those that can be personally transported and where the vaccine can reach an approved storage unit within 4 hours. Commercial carriers may be used in emergencies. Contact the Immunization Program if you have an emergency.

And as a reminder, vaccine that is physically transferred to another provider must be *virtually* transferred in imMTrax as well.

Td Vaccine – Transition to TENIVAC®

Starting February 1, 2012, sanofi pasteur will replace its current tetanus and diphtheria toxoids adsorbed (Td) vaccine, DECAVAC® with TENIVAC®. TENIVAC® vaccine is indicated for active immunization for prevention of tetanus and diphtheria. TENIVAC® vaccine is approved for use in persons 7 years of age and older.

Although the transition occurs on February 1, DECAVAC® will still be offered through the VFC Program until supplies are depleted at McKesson. This may take several months.

Updated Guidance on Transporting Varicella-containing Vaccines

On June 6, 2011, Merck changed the prescribing information for their varicella-containing vaccines to preclude the use of dry ice in their storage and transport. This information was communicated to providers in a memo dated June 13, 2011, but at that time the CDC had yet to formulate recommendations for transporting these vaccines given this new information from Merck.

The CDC has now updated their recommendations. The entire recommendation is attached to this memo with the highlights summarized below:

- The CDC does not recommend the routine transport of varicella-containing vaccines.
- If transport is necessary, use a portable freezer unit capable of maintaining temperatures between -58°F and +5°F (-50°C and -15°C).

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- If a freezer unit is not available, varicella-containing vaccines can be transported at refrigerated temperatures, but this is considered a temperature excursion, and the following steps should be taken:
 - Monitor temperatures during transport (We recommend a continuously monitoring thermometer such as a data logger).
 - After transport, immediately place the vaccine in a freezer maintaining the appropriate storage temperatures (-50°C to -15°C or -58°F to +5°F).
 - Call the manufacturer (1-800-637-2590) to report the out-of-range temperatures during transport and determine the viability of the vaccine.

The new recommendations have been incorporated into the updated *VFC Provider Handbook/Vaccine Management Plan*, which will be available mid-February (see below). Please contact the Immunization Program if you have questions.

Data Loggers

As we approach the first anniversary of our Data Logger Project, please be aware of the following issues:

Batteries

The batteries supplied with your data loggers last approximately 9 to 12 months, and may now be coming to the end of their life. Indications of a low battery are both LED lights flashing red every 60 seconds or a warning when you plug the device into your computer. If the battery is completely dead, there will be no LED lights and no digital read out.

All data loggers came with an extra battery in the cardboard box. Batteries can also be purchased from Control Solutions (<http://www.vfcdataloggers.com/replacement36voltlithiumbattery.aspx>). To change the battery, push the small silver button on the backside of the digital display and slide the lower plastic sleeve off the unit.

Annual Recalibration

Data loggers in the Montana VFC Program are due for re-calibration in March. Instead of re-calibrating the existing data loggers, the Immunization Program has purchased new data loggers for all providers. These new units will be temperature-only (no more dew point and humidity data), fully calibrated, and have an additional function controlling the red warning light. As the re-calibration date approaches, stay tuned for more information on this exciting upgrade!

imMTrax – January End-of-Month Process

As a reminder, we transitioned from the previous state immunization registry, WIZRD, to imMTrax on November 14, 2011 and are working towards a fully functioning system. For the end of January, we are asking providers to enter cold chain data and reconcile inventories in imMTrax. Orders are still through Jerry at Home IV Pharmacy.

We issued a separate memo with instructions. Please read the memo and follow the instructions. We appreciate your cooperation!

VFC Provider Handbook/Vaccine Management Plan

The imMTrax roll-out has changed many processes in the VFC Program, and in some cases these processes are still evolving. This has made several sections of the current *VFC Provider Handbook/Vaccine Management Plan* obsolete. An updated VFC HB/VMP is in review and will be available mid-February. We will distribute a print copy of the updated document to all providers when they are available. Thank you for your patience!

If you have any questions, please contact the Immunization Program at 444-5580 or hhsiz@mt.gov.